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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Examining Operations

Patent Application

Inventor: COLLINGS, Tim

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SELECTIVELY BLOCKING  
AUDIO AND VIDEO SIGNALS

Serial No.: 08/761,091

Filed: 5 December, 1996

Examiner: S. Buczinski

Art Unit: 3642

Date: 8 May, 1998

To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C.  
20231

Dear Sir:

AMENDMENT

Responsive to the office action mailed 16 January, 1998, which set a Shortened Statutory Period for Response of 16 April, 1998, please amend this application as follows:

In the Claims

Cancel claim 16 without prejudice; and,

Amend claims 1 and 7 as follows:

1. (Amended) A video program transmission method for enabling a viewer to receive information useful for selectively blocking the viewing of television programming, said method comprising the steps of:

- transmitting a plurality of television channels to a viewer;
- for each said channel in a first group of one or more of said channels, embedding program information comprising at least a value representing a level in first multi-level category of a first informational